

I am an OTR trucker and was delighted with XM radio's decision to begin offering local traffic and weather for selected metro regions in the U.S. I receive almost instant information which has already helped me avoid traffic and weather problems as I traverse the eastern half of the country. Satellite radio is able to offer two things local AM stations can't. First, I can be hundreds of miles from Boston, New York, Philadelphia, etc., but have the ability to receive a clear broadcast of desired information which helps me plan my driving schedule. Daytime AM signals rarely go past 50-100 miles, and night time signals vary greatly. Second, no AM station provides the kind of instant, concise, up to date, COMMERCIAL FREE, information which satellite provides. Commercial AM stations need not worry that I will abandon them. When in a particular locality, if the satellite indicates a problem of interest, I will dial in the local AM stations for further information. The two services, XM and AM actually compliment each other. The satellite information stations are actually kind of sterile, whereas the AM stations have lots of local character. In fact, the local AM stations would benefit immensely from advertising there presence on the satellite services.

In short, I hope the FCC will consider these new satellite services to be a valuable complement to existing AM offerings.